## Message Text

## CONFIDENTIAL

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SMS-02 /073 W

-----090795 050121Z /75

R 040615Z AUG 78 FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2199 INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO CINCPAC USLO PEKING

CONFIDENTIAL HONG KONG 10380

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINT, PINR, CH

SUBJECT: CHANGE AT THE COMMERCE MINISTRY

**REF: PEKING 2378** 

- 1. THE AUGUST 1 PEOPLE'S DAILY ACCOUNT OF THE ATTENDEES AT THE PLA FESTIVITIES (REFTEL) INDICATES THAT WANG LEI'S REPLACEMENT AS MINISTER OF COMMERCE IS YAO I-LIN, WHO OCCUPIED THE COMMERCE MINISTRY SLOT IN THE LISTING OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM VARIOYS DEPARTMENTS UNDER THE STATE COUNCIL.
- 2. YAO PREVIOUSLY HEADED THE MINISTRY FROM 1960 UNTIL HE LOST HIS POST IN 1967, DURING THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION. AFTER HIS REHABILITATION IN 1973, HE SERVED AS VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (HE WAS NOTED AS FIRST VICE MINISTER IN 1977). SINCE JUNE OF LAST YEAR, HOWEVER, HE HAS NOT BEEN IDENTIFIED WITH THAT MINISTRY. AT KUO MO-JO'S MEMORIAL SERVICE IN JUNE 1978, YAO'S NAME APPEARED CONFIDENTIAL

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AMONG THOSE PERSONS WORKING UNDER THE STATE COUNCIL BUT NOT HOLDING MINISTRY PORTFOLIOS; THEREFORE, IT IS LIKELY THAT HE TOOK OVER FROM WANG LEI SOMETIME IN JULY.

3. UNLIKE HIS PREDECESSOR, YAO I-LIN IS A FULL MEMBER OF THE CCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE. THIS, PLUS HIS

EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN ADMINISTERING ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS, PROVIDES THE COMMERCE MINISTRY WITH A STRONG LEADER WHO CAN INSURE THAT GOODS AND SERVICES ARE PROMPTLY AND EFFICIENTLY DISTRIBUTED WITHIN THE PRC. SHOESMITH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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Subject: CHANGE AT THE COMMERCE MINISTRY

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